

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical pickup unit for converging a laser beam produced by a semiconductor laser on a signal recording surface of an optical disc through an objective lens by reflecting said laser beam by a reflecting surface of a rising mirror and for detecting a return beam from said signal recording surface by a photodetector by reflecting said return beam by the reflecting surface of said rising mirror, wherein

a rising angle between the reflecting surface of said rising mirror and a pickup's lower surface is smaller than 45 degrees; and

optical parts including said semiconductor laser and said photodetector are arranged in an optical base with said optical parts inclined to said optical base so that said optical parts are not jutted out said pickup's lower surface downwards.

2. An optical pickup unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said optical pickup unit further comprises, as said optical parts, a diffraction grating for separating said laser beam produced by said semiconductor laser into three laser beams, a beam splitter for reflecting said three laser beams from said diffraction grating and for transmitting said return beam, a collimator lens disposed between said beam splitter and said rising mirror, and a concave lens disposed between said beam splitter and said photodetector.

3. An optical pickup unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein said optical pickup unit further comprises, as one of said optical parts, a forward sensor for monitoring a light amount of the laser beam which is produced by said semiconductor laser and which is partially transmitted through said beam splitter.

0000526600 2003-07-25